Garden of Eden Defiled!

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Barbarism, Imprisonment, Cold Blood Butchery, Beastly Outrages Beyond Description Committed upon Men and Women, Terrorism and Ruin are the order of the day in

ARMENIA.

Horrible Deeds of the "Hamidie Cavalry" in Van.

On the 15th of June, 1893, a terrible tradegy took place in the village, Kouroubash, within 1 1-2 hours distance of Van, (the government seat). Four peasants, named HAGOP VARTANIAN, HAGOA KRIKORIAN, KRIKOR MOVSESYAN and KOLO SHAKOYAN, accompanied by three young maidens, named SANAN KRIKORIAN, MARIAM HAGOPIAN and ANNUMAN MARDIROSIAN, set out to the slopes of Mount Varak to pick up greens for cooking. While busy with picking, they are overtaken unawares by a band of scoundrels, who bêlonged to the "Hamidie Cavalry", which is composed entirely of Kurds, and was organized by Sultan Hamid two years ago for the sole purpose of harassing the Armenians, thereby. The ferocious Kurds, with drawn swords, assault these helpless and unarmed peasants and butcher mercilessly the the four young men, deafening their ears to the heart-rending shrieks and pathetic appeals of their victims. The savages after committing these horrid murders in cold blood, assault the three young maidens and violate their honor in a most shameful and brutal manner; then they depart from this most horrible and pathetic scene with perfect indifference, being assured of receiving partisan aid and support from the Turkish authorities in case of prosecution by the Court of Justice, a term which, unfortunately, has no meaning wherever the Turkish rule exists. The three young maidens who were lying on the ground unconsciously for some time, after recovering their senses, start at once for the village and inform the villagers of this shocking tragedy.

This news fills the whole village with mourning and indignation. Soon a big crowd of peasants hurry in confusion to the scene of tradegy with carts, where they find the mutilated corpses lying in a pool of blood. They load them in the carts, and proceed to the city of Van. The Governor being informed of their approach to the city, sends out a company of soldiers to disperse them, but the indignant peasants resist the soldiers and in the fight a few peasants become wounded, and still they continue their journey; then the government arrests some of the relatives and friends of the murdered ones, and endeavors by threats and promises to prevent them from going to the city, but the excited peasants in spite of all the efforts of the Governor, with tearful eyes and full determination, still proceed to the British Consulate. On the absence of the consul, the dragoman examines the corpses and notes down the details of the tradegy. After this they march to the Russian Consulate where again the dragoman on the absence of the consul, examines the bodies and recording the tradegy in detail, promises to communicate to his respective government. Sanan, one of the maidens, soon after her arrival at the village, died from the effect of the beastly outrage committed upon her. These horrid deeds of barbarism were committed before the very eyes of the representatives of the two most powerful nations of civilized Europe and passed into oblivion as unworthy of notice. And what the Turkish government did? She arrested kindly two of the scoundrel Kurds. And why? To reward them for their noble achievements!

Terrible Suffeirings of Armenian Political Prisoners.

Last winter in the cities of Morsovan, Caesarea, Galatia and Yozgad placards were posted at the corners of the streets, charging the present Sultan with having usurped the Ottoman throne, and declaring his administration totally incompetent. This was a signal for the Turkish government to perpetrate upon the Armenian people such hellish atrocities which are conceivable by the Turkish mind alone. This was a chance for them to gratify once again their bitter hatred and well-know animosity against their defenceless subjects. Under the pretense of arresting those who were implicated in editing and posting the PLACARDS, bands of Turkish and Kurdish gendarmes aided by furious and fanatic Turkish mobs, made attacks upon the Armenian population of those cities and their neighboring villages. Their houses were broken into, the honor of women, virgins and youths were shamelessly violated everywhere; cases of flogging were common, many houses were pillaged and burned down. The heart-rending shrieks of mothers and pathetic cries of innocent infants shivering from the severity of the winter, were drowned by the howling of the scoundrels. These horrible outrages were followed by a wholesale arrest of 500 innocent Armenians, who being chained hands and feet, and unprotected against the cold and snow, were driven like cattle, to fill the filthy prison of Caesarea. A Turkish prison, where the Armenian political offender is confined, is altogether unlike that of the civilized world. The inquisitorial dungeons of middle age may be regarded as paradises as compared with these 19th century hells of Turkish device.

The Turkish authorities, having no evidence whatever to convict the arrested Armenians of their alleged offenses, resorted to every demoniacal means and devices in order to make them declare themselves and others guilty of such political offences as the officials would like. Exposure to cold, hunger and thirst, flogging, bodily tortures of every description and violation of

personal honor were daily torments to which the innocent Armenians were subjected.

Here we are going to give a list of prisoners who underwent the most dreadful and devilish treatment.

SHAVARSH YESSAYIAN, of Tallass, aged 40 years, father of four children, the principal of Vart-Badrig Academy (Armenia) of Ceasarea, a man of high degree of education was the first among all others imprisoned. On the last new year's day, two centenials, the attorney-general, accompanied by 30 gendarmes break into the house of this man, and search his house, sacking the trunks, safes and bureaus, tearing down the roofs, smashing the furniture; all these were done under the pretext of finding revolutionary literarure, and although failing to find, they do not hesitate to arrest him and commit him to prison. Here he is locked in a damp dark cell for six days, naked, a damp earth floor for bed, and deprived of all means of nourishment, having been subjected to cruel flogging in the meanwhile.

SARKIS TEKKEYAN, of Tallass, aged 41 years, father of two children, after being mercilessly flogged, was made to squat in deep mud, and ice-cold water was poured over the head during the cold wintery days. They pulled his mustaches out; tied his hands and hanged him head downward; they forced him to kneel down with heavy stones between the legs, then thrust the spout of a stone jug into the lower passage of the body, blowing from the top of the jug with all the strength of their lungs, until the pressure of the air caused violent internal pains and vomiting of the refuse of the stomach; then they thrust a hot skewer into his urinal passage, and burned the body in several places. This mode of tormenting lasted eight days, then with satanic delight they prevailed upon their victim and Choukourly Hagop (another political prisoner) to violate each other's honor, though without avail.

GARABED KERTMENIAN, of Tallass, age 23, teacher by profession, they hang him head downward and flog him violently for four hours; then keep him kneeling in the mud during a whole wintery night. Again, they fasten a rope around his neck and drag him along the snowy ground. Having barely escaped from being chocked to death, he is shut up in a charcoal cellar for 11 days, without food or water.

ROOPEN KEHYAYAN, of Tallass, age 40, married. They brutally beat him and pour pails of cold water over his naked body. Again, they force him to kneel in the mud with heavy stones in his lap. Then they kick him into the mud, and trample under feet. They torture him in this manner for six days.

KHAZAR VEZIRYAN, of Tallass, age 40, father of a large family. They strip him of all his clothes, and beat him for several hours so violently that his body begins to bleed.

ARSEN KALFAYAN of Tallass, age 33, married, an able lawyer and attorney of the treasury of the local government. After being deprived of food and water for four days, he was locked in a dreary cell where rusty chains and kerosene oil were kept, almost naked, being denied almost all means of nourishment for 11 days.

HADJI MADJARYAN, of Caesarea, age 20, after being undressed, ice water is poured over his head for hours, then he is made to squat in mud for four hours, meanwhile they burn his feet and shoulders with red-hot tongs.

HAGOP JEBIDELLIKYAN, age 30. This man had been arrested being mistaken for another man of the same name. In spite of the severe weather they poured volumes of cold water over his naked body lying in the mud, then they branded the body in many places with hot tongs, and thrust a hot skewer into his urinal passage. They did not stop this most barbarous treatment until the mayor of Caesarea became aware of the fact that they were torturing an innocent. Then the mayor sets him free, speaking to him as follows, most indifferently; "son they have arrested you by mistake, sacrifice your right."

CHOUKOURLY HAGOP, of Caesarea, age 45, father of children, is beaten violently and a pailful of urine poured over his naked body, then they in gratification of their beastly craving, commit a demoniacal outrage upon his personal honor. Again, they hang him head downward, spit in his mouth, and leave him hungry. They continue this heartless mode of tormenting for 12 days.

HADJI KHAZAR MADJARYAN, of Caesarea, sixty years of age, father of a large family. They keep this poor old man hungry for 42 hours in an open yard covered with snow, where he comes pretty near freezing to death. The mayor fearing lest the

old man should die, releases him; but the wretched fellow from long exposure to hunger and cold, in attempting to walk out of the prison, faints and tumbles down on the snow and is taken to his house in that condition.

MARDIROS JIVANYAN, age 18, a recent graduate from American Anatolia College at Marsovan; he is undressed and flogged ferociouly; then is hanged on a pole, and the rod is applied to his body again, and he is kept lying in mud and denied food and water for several days.

PARSEKH DEOKMEJIAN, of Caesarea, age 27. The severe application of the rod to his bare body causes serious injuries and spitting of blood.

MUGIRDICH SUSLYAN, of Caesarea, age 25, a merchant, was locked in a charcoal cellar where bags of charcoal and cans of kerosene oil were poured over his head for 12 hours.

HOVHANNESS KARA KULLAHYAN, (otherwise called Koula) of Caesarea, 21 years of age. A Turkish centenial by the name of Feyzoullah, arrested him at Manjus and brought him to Efkeree. (a canton) where he was shut up in a nasty stable and hanged down from one foot, head buried in manure. After being tortured in this manner for 24 hours, he was taken to Caesarea. On their journey, Ahmed, (a Turk) the clerk of the criminal court, prevails upon Koula to bear witness that Hovannes Arzoumanyan is the murderer of a Turk, threatening to cause him to be tortured to death. On their arrival at the city, they imprison him, casting into heavy chains and flogging most brutally.

MAMASS KEOPRUGGAN, of Belegess, age 18, besides being flogged fearfully and tortured with hot tongs, his honor is violated repeatedly at nights by the lewd officials of the prison.

ARISTAGESS, of Evereg, age 45, miller by occupation; this man having been accused of posting the anti-government placards, while in the prison of Evereg was subjected to most terrible outrages and tortures. After his honor had been violated by ten Turks, he was hanged from the neck for 4 days being deprived of food and water: when nearing death the wretched fellow begs for some water; a heartless official approaches with a pail of water and knocks him on the head so violently that his head

becomes severely bruised and the pail broken to pieces, They take him down and in spite of his intense sufferings they bury his naked body in snow for hours. Finally they set him at liberty, finding out that their victim was innocent.

SURPOOHI KESHLEJYAN, of Evereg, a middle-aged Armenian woman also shared the dreadful fate with the other prisoners as a political offender. This most unfortunate woman after having undergone many tortures, in spite of her implorings for mercy, was dragged to the prison yard and her honor was outraged most brutally by 8 villian gendarmes of prison guards.

ARSEN DEOKMEJYAN, a promising young man of 23 years of age, died of the effects of the incredibly cruel torture to which he was subjected in the prison.

These horrible outrages and barbarous cruelties were executed during the long and cold nights of the winter, by the special order of the Turkish high authorities. The pitiable groanings and heartrending screams of those being flogged, exposed to the shocking chills of the ice and branded mercilessly, were drowned amid the darkness of the night, and the wild howling and yells of the vile Turkish criminals of the prison.

Two months ago, the world was absolutely ignorant of these dreadful sufferings of the prisoners, because intercourse with them was strictly forbidden, even the released prisoners were obliged to keep silence on the matter, afraid of the threatenings to be rearrested. 200 of the total 500 prisoners were released after a long trial; PROFESSORS KAYAYAN and TOMAYAN who were condemmed to death, were banished from the country; 34 persons, including a woman named SURPOOHI were sentenced to imprisonment of long terms, differing from 5 to 15 years; 10 persons were sent to Constantinople; 5 prisoners named, Guilbeng Hammallian of Tallass, Toross Dzaroogian of Guireen, Meridjan Khanabakhyn of Tallass, Panoss Yaghoobyan of Tallass, and Hovanness Arzoomanyan of Caesarea, aged 18, 20, 21, 26 and 30 years respectively, were hanged in Galatia, in spite of their innocence and the unfairness of their trial, of which the British Ambassador at Constantinople was fully aware, and declared the same to the Turkish authorities. These brave martyrs for the Armenian cause, when noosed to be hanged, shouted out,

"LONG LIVE ARMENIA!" The rest of the prisoners are awaiting the outcome of their trials. So we state, and our statement is corroborated by the combined testimony of the British and Ameriean representatives in Armenia, that today, over 2000 innocent Armenians are groaning in the hell-fashioned Turkish prisons throughout Armenia. And why? Because they have committed the abominable crime of protesting against the gross injustice and the world known mis-rule and tyranny of the Government.

Wholesale Mohammedenizing.

Whole Christian Families Forced to Choose Between Death and Islamism.

The Armenian nation, which has been the first in the world to embrace Christianity, and have for 18 centuries been a bulwark in Asia against the fierce inroads of Persian idolatry and Arabian degrading Islamism, and have preserved her religion intact to this day, at the cost of the blood of her myriads of martyrs and heroes, to-day, in this golden age of christian civilization finds herself confronted by the old Moslem fanaticism, which by its barbarous and unprecedented oppressions, intends to lead the Armenians to choose between national annihilation and Mohammedism.

Hamzasheik, an Armenian village of 30 families, in the Canton of Boulanuck, numbering about 150 persons, and another Armenian village, called Yonjaloo, in the Canton of Alashgerd, consisting of 70 christian families, numbering four-hundred persons, compelled by the existing unbearable circumstances, have outwardly become Mohammedens in the hope of a relief. The Turkish Government has expressed its high degree of satisfaction and encouraged them by its bestowal of favors and gifts upon them.

Armenia, after 36 centuries of political existence, passed into the control of the Turkish despotism. And so the Armenian nation, which by her flourishing colonies in India, Persia, Russia, Egypt, Italy and England has given ample proof of her wonderful capacity for civilization, and of those sterling characteristics which are essential for the self-government of a nation, to-day we find Her in Armenia hampered in her endeavors to progress in civilization.

The introduction of the American christian civilization into Armenia wrought out a revival of religion and education, which enlightened the mind and the heart of the Armenian. He saw clearly that mental, moral and material progress was an utter impossibility under Turkish despotism, and that the continuance of his condition would naturally end in a national ruin and decay. He appealed to the Turkish

government, he begged with tearful eyes for a betterment of his condition, then he protested against injustice, but the savage Turk responded to his appeals and entreaties by an increase of oppressions. At last, being discouraged of securing any remedy from Turkish government, for the existing evils, he appealed to the Congress of Berlin, and presented his sacred and just cause, entreating for relief with cross in hand and tears in eyes. But the Turkish barbarism and European selfish christian civilization both shut their ears against the righteous protests and justs demands of this, a down-throdden christian nation. And when the Turk discovered that the christian world was looking with indifference upon the sad affairs in Armenia, and that the atrocities and oppressions perpetrated upon the Armenians did not move Europe to action, he, furiously enraged, resumed the work of desolation and ruin with doubled energy and unreservedly. So to-day the fair land of Eden, (Armenia) is transformed to a scene of blood, ruin and outrage. The Armenians, losing all hope of assistance from outside, and failing in all their efforts to get relief by pacific measures have taken up the sacred and noble cause of freedom in their own hands and are preparing themselves to make their just demands audible to the civilized world, one day, at the cost of their blood.

O you free sons and daughters of America, you champions of Liberty, will you despise then, the national cause of Armenians, a cause which means the birth of a nation, a cause of humanity? Will you permit that the Armenian nation rightly called the "yankees" of the Orient, with her glorious history, with her rich literature, her blood-purchased christian religion, with her sterling moral and remarkable intellectual qualities and with the possibility of ranking one day among the great and progressive nations of the world, to be down-trodden and crushed out of existence by a barbarous moslem government, which has been a scourge of humanity and a menace to civilization during the whole period of her political existence?

It is of this government that the organ of Gladstone has rightly said that "obedience to it is a crime, and rebellion against it a virtue.

COMMITTEE OF THE WORCESTER BRANCH OF THE
HUNTCHAGIST REVOLUTIONARY PARTY.

Huntchagist Revolutionary Party.

This is the only Armenian party which is leading on the revolutionary movement in Armenia. Its center is Athens and has branches in every village and city in Armenia, also in the colonies. Nishan Garabedian, one of the founders of the party is in America, and those desiring to get further information may communicate with him, addressing,

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No. 15 Fountain Street,
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or with the center, M. BENIARD,
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